



Alaska Commission on
Postsecondary Education

— and the —

Alaska Student
Loan Corporation

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COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING • FINANCIAL AID • CONSUMER PROTECTION
Promoting Higher Education & Training for Alaska

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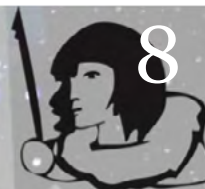
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LEGISLATIVE RECAP

BILL ENSURING CIVILIAN RECOGNITION OF MILITARY EXPERTISE PASSES –
BILL SEEKING TO RETAIN COLLEGE GRADS IN ALASKA STALLS

**...MANAGEMENT'S
FOCUS WAS
ENSURING THE
BILL'S LANGUAGE
DID NOT RESULT IN
ANY UNINTENDED
CONSEQUENCES
FOR ACCREDITED
INSTITUTIONS
OPERATING IN
THE STATE.**

As the 28th Legislative Session adjourned Sunday April 14, 2013 one of two bills of interest to ACPE's roles and responsibilities passed both the House and Senate.

House Bill 84 (HB84) and its counterpart Senate Bill 4 (SB4) offers education credits or temporary occupational licensure for relevant military education, training or service. HB84/SB4 were sponsored by Representative Dan Saddler and Senator Bill Wielechowski, respectively. HB84 passed out of both bodies with overwhelming, bipartisan support. Included in the bill are amendments to AS 14.48, Alaska statutes relative to the regulation of postsecondary institutions, to require certain authorized institutions award credit to students who provide evidence of relevant military education, training or service as a member of the armed forces. Minimal impacts with this new legislation are expected. The University of Alaska, exempt from the provisions of AS 14.48, is separately addressed within the bill. The institutions that are subject to this requirement may include Alaska Bible College, Alaska Christian College, Alaska Pacific University, AVTEC-Alaska's Institute of Technology, Alaska Career College, Central Texas College, Charter College, Wayland Baptist University, and Ilisagvik College.

The Commission took no formal position on the legislation and

management's focus was ensuring the bill's language did not result in any unintended consequences for accredited institutions operating in the state. The bill now awaits transmittal to the Governor.

The other legislation relevant to postsecondary education, a bill that would provide for a reduction of principal of postsecondary education loans for Alaska residents (HB17), remains in its first committee of referral. The bill, sponsored by Representative Les Gara and cosponsored by several other minority members proposed an annual 2.5% principal reduction to borrowers of state education loans meeting certain conditions. Similar legislation offering an interest rate reduction was previously sponsored by Rep. Gara during the 27th Alaska Legislature. The bill's sponsor indicated the intent of the legislation is to incent borrowers to complete a degree or certificate program in a timely manner and maintain Alaska residency. HB17 stipulates the reduction of principal is subject to appropriation by the legislature to avoid cost to the Alaska Student Loan Corporation.

Commission managers advised that from a servicing perspective, awarding the benefit would be manual and administratively burdensome as it would require the collection of information and documentation not currently required of borrowers. HB17 had not been scheduled for any hearings as of adjournment. ●

*For more info visit:
legis.state.ak.us*

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NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE DATA SHINES LIGHT ON ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT PATTERNS

GRADUATES MORE LIKELY TO STAY IN ALASKA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

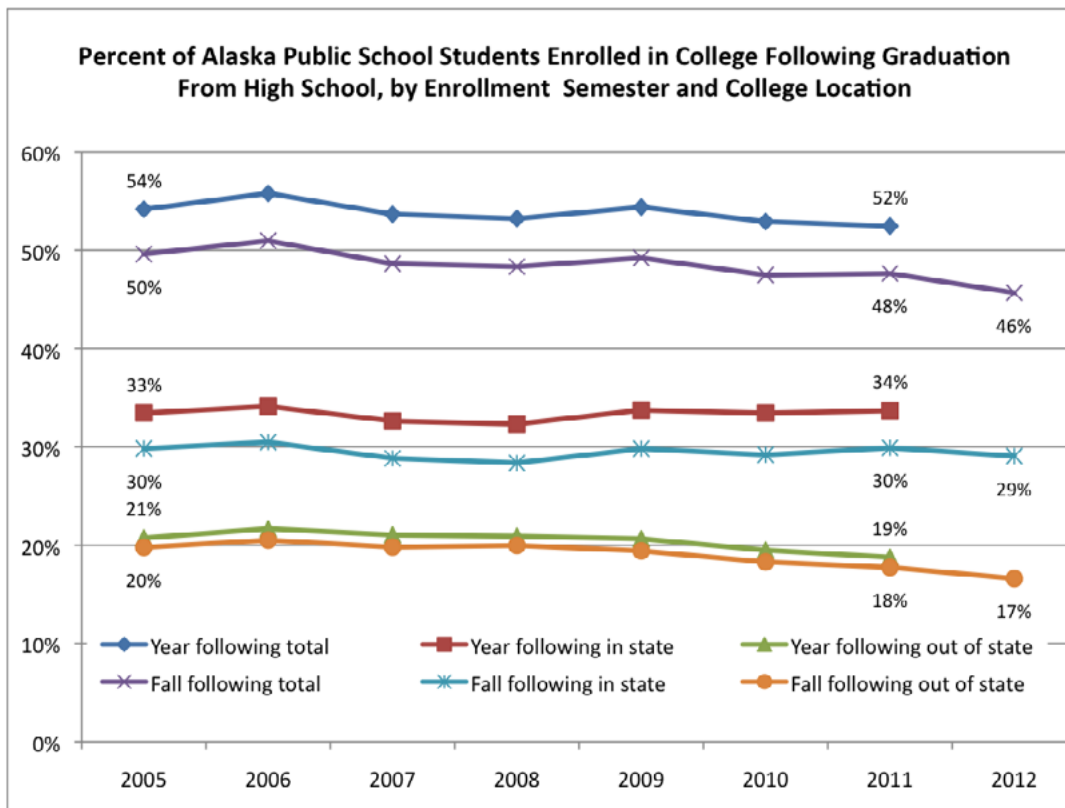
If you have ever applied for a job that required a postsecondary degree as a condition of employment, chances are your potential employer contacted your college to confirm your information – or possibly verified it through the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC).

Founded in 1993, the NSC serves as a repository of students' postsecondary enrollment data for more than 3,300 colleges and universities across the U.S, enrolling over 96% of all students in both public and private U.S. institutions. NSC's traditional role has been

to verify enrollments, degrees and certifications for students, and to fill requests for students' transcripts. However, over the last several years NSC has expanded its services, making use of its vast database on postsecondary attendance to serve as a source of information for high schools on the number and characteristics of graduates who pursued postsecondary studies. NSC data can tell schools whether their students attend public or private, in-state or out-of-state, 2-year or 4-year institutions. And, because the database contains information on students who complete their programs of study, retention/persistence rates can also be tracked. Schools will be able to know if their students return for their second year and whether they ultimately finish their degree program.

For Alaska, NSC records show that more than 50% of public school graduates attend a postsecondary institution the first year (see Exhibit 1). Most -

Exhibit 1



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BACK TO
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HEADCOUNTS AY12 GRADUATES ATTENDING FALL 2012

	AY12 GRADUATES	ATTENDED IN AK	ATTENDED OUTSIDE	NOT FOUND / NOT ATTENDING
TOTAL	7,985	2,288	1,302	4,395
NOT APS ELIGIBLE	5,810	1,347	480	3,983
TOTAL APS ELIGIBLE / PERCENT OF TOTAL	2,175	941 / 43%	822 / 38%	412 / 19%
LEVEL 1	894	331/37%	455/51%	108/12%
LEVEL 2	764	344/45%	252/33%	168/22%
LEVEL 3	517	266/51%	115/22%	136/26%

48% of the high school class of AY11 - attend the fall immediately following their graduation. An additional 4% enroll later that academic year.

Like most other states, Alaska's high school graduates are most likely to attend an in-state institution – about 30%, compared to about 20% or less attending an out-of-state school the fall following graduation. Students who enroll at a later time are also more likely to enroll in-state.

NSC data can be extremely helpful in understanding the education continuum of students after high school graduation. The information becomes even more valuable to agencies like ACPE when looking at specific groups of graduates sharing certain characteristics.

For example, by grouping students based on their eligibility to receive various levels of the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), and matching them to NSC data, we

can determine how many pursued postsecondary studies in the fall after their graduation, and where they pursued them (see Exhibit 2).

It should not be surprising that students who qualified for the APS at any award level are more likely to pursue postsecondary studies than those who did not qualify for the scholarship. Over 80% of APS-eligible students were found to be attending a postsecondary institution the fall following their high school graduation, with 43% attending in Alaska and 38% attending an out-of-state school. Also, as might be expected, students attaining the highest APS award levels were the ones most likely to attend – 88% of Level 1 eligible students attended the following fall compared to 78% and 73% for Level 2 and Level 3 students. What's interesting to note, however, is that in-state vs. out-of-state attendance among these three groups was dramatically different. 51% of Level 1 eligible students attended an out-

of-state school the fall following graduation, and only 37% attended in-state. In contrast, among Level 3 eligible students, 51% attended in-state, and only 22% pursued their studies at an out-of-state school.

Because the APS can only be received by students attending an in-state school, looking at APS usage rates alone could lead to the puzzling conclusion that students qualifying for the top award levels were less likely to continue their education. But NSC data gives us a more complete picture of eligible students' postsecondary involvement without regard to APS use. As the APS pipeline continues to fill, NSC data will allow ACPE to monitor trends in Alaska high school graduates postsecondary attendance patterns, and identify whether the scholarship is driving positive change – among the population of students qualifying and using the award, as well as among Alaska's entire classes of high school graduates. ●

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5TH AND 6TH GRADERS INVADE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES ACROSS THE STATE WITH KIDS2COLLEGE

A NEW PROGRAM AND CURRICULUM HELP KIDS EXPLORE THEIR FUTURES



CLICK TO PLAY

Eleven-year-old Lydia waited patiently for her chance to see, close up, how to start a diesel engine. After listening to the roar of the engine, Lydia was able to climb her way into the cab of a big yellow John Deere Front Loader. She wanted to get first-hand knowledge of what it would be like to drive one.

Lydia is one of more than 500 Anchorage 5th and 6th graders given the opportunity to go to college for a day at the University of Alaska Anchorage during one of twelve statewide Kids2College events.

Kids2College is a new program that builds on the success of 10 years of the I'm Going to College program in Alaska. The campus visit for elementary students is the same for both programs, but Kids2College incorporates a new, more in-depth classroom curriculum.

Not only is the new 6-lesson curriculum more thorough with college and career information, it also helps students identify their own career interests. Participants take away their own age-appropriate personal learning and career plan, as well as knowledge of concrete

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"WE'VE BEEN DOING K2C. MY TEACHER HAS BEEN TELLING US ABOUT DEGREES, AND STUFF WE NEED TO DO IN HIGH SCHOOL TO GO TO COLLEGE."

— LYDIAH



CLICK TO PLAY

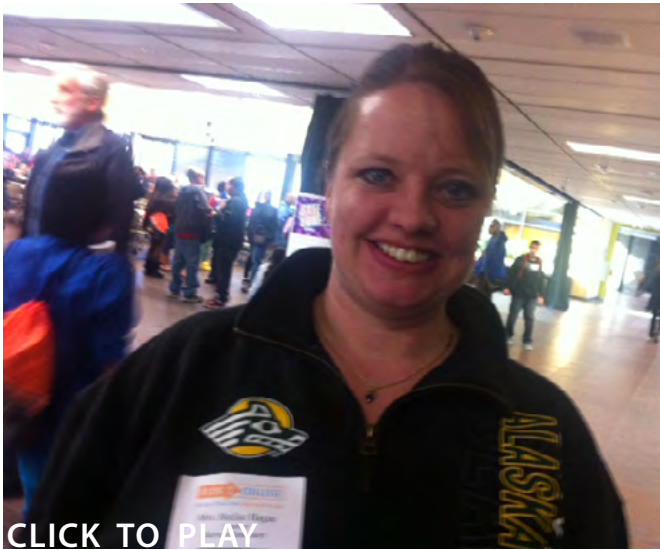
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Shelise Hague, a teacher at Fairview Elementary school, has participated in both programs. She says she has seen great improvements with the new curriculum.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME EVERY SINGLE STUDENT HAD A COLLEGE THEY WERE INTERESTED IN AND A CAREER CHOICE AND SO OUT OF ALL OF THEM, WE HAD 100% PARTICIPATE".

– SHELISE HAGUE

action steps needed to prepare for and successfully complete related college or career training.

Shelise Hague, a Fairview Elementary school teacher and veteran of both programs, expressed her appreciation for the new curriculum "For the first time every single student had a college they were interested in and a career choice and so out of all of them, we had 100% participate". Hague went a step further, and had all of her students send letters to colleges "We used google docs and they (the kids) typed up letters to send to universities to get information back. Then it just starts the dialogue (in class) about what the universities send."

K2C curriculum also includes a career panel where professionals share their own college and career experiences with the students. Students are able to research and present details on their careers of interest and learn what various academic options and steps they can take today to prepare for college. Kids2College helps students connect the dots between local high school graduation and test requirements, college admissions, and qualifying for financial aid opportunities like the Alaska Performance Scholarship.

Lydia says college is definitely something she wants to do "We've been doing K2C. My teacher has been telling us about degrees and stuff we need to do in high school to go to college. I've been driven to go to college and my parents want me to go to college and I'm doing good in school".

Partnering with ACPE to ensure K2C's success are the UA College Savings Plan, the Sallie Mae Fund, and numerous local college campuses.

K2C success is measured by comparing and analyzing survey data collected before and after completion of the curriculum. Kids2College uses Likert scale surveys designed to assess students' post-high school plans and expectations, the frequency of family academic and career discussions, as well as understanding of postsecondary preparation, admissions, and financial aid concepts.

ACPE plans to review the new data this year and refine the program as needed to ensure maximum impact. Best practices sharing among sites is already showing

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promise with ideas to help ensure K2C can be effectively implemented at all sites.

The ultimate goal is to inspire students like Lydia to imagine their futures and take action to prepare for the possibilities that can be. Learning about college and the steps she needs to take to get there may help Lydia become the one to build or design the diesel engines of the next generation. ●



UAS Sitka Construction instructor Pat Hughes shows 6th grade students from Blatchley Middle School how to build a box.



ACROSS ALASKA

Kids2College in the News

Frontiersman in Palmer
<http://bit.ly/178tZZI>

Homer News in Homer
<http://bit.ly/178uulT>

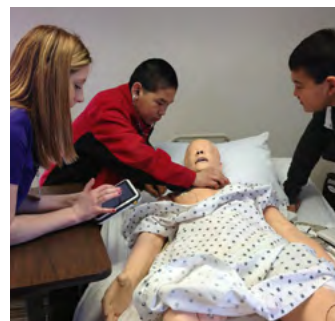
Homer Tribune in Homer
<http://bit.ly/YzWJEM>

KVAC Radio in Valdez
<http://bit.ly/104r25v>



TOP LEFT: ACPE K-12 Specialist Shelly Morgan welcomes 5th and 6th grade Kids2College students to UAS Juneau.

TOP RIGHT: Students watch germs build up on their hands in the Health Sciences class at UAS Sitka.



BOTTOM LEFT: 5th graders from Fred Ipalook Elementary learn about construction trades at Ilisagvik College.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Nursing student Catherine Neumann shows how to care for patients in Nome's nursing lab.

For more photos from Kids2College events across Alaska visit:
facebook.com/followacpe

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BETHEL MOVES TOWARD THE FUTURE

ALASKA TAKES TOP HONORS IN NATIONWIDE COMPETITION

"IT'S EXCITING FOR A HIGH SCHOOL IN ALASKA TO COME IN FIRST, BUT IT'S EVEN BETTER THAT FOUR OF ALASKA'S HIGH SCHOOLS ARE IN THE TOP 20 OUT OF A POSSIBLE 389 NATIONWIDE."

**– NCAC ADVISER
NATHANIEL BETZ**

In a three-month competition between 389 Advising Corps partner high schools in 14 states across the country, Alaska schools were named 1st, 2nd, 11th, and 15th in activities that engage students in college awareness and FAFSA completion.

The "Future Forward Challenge" of the National College Advising Corps (NCAC) motivates students to prepare for the future by engaging in friendly online competition. Schools earn 100 points via online games and activities - the school with the most points earns a "Celebrity Principal for a Day." Additional prizes are awarded to students with high levels of participation.

With a top total score of 99 points Bethel Regional High School earned the grand prize. Students at Bethel posted a 61% FAFSA completion rate (vs. 41% nationwide), conducted 175 scholarship searches, played 2,300 educational games, and left 1,200 discussion board comments during the Challenge. Bethel's outstanding efforts were spearheaded by ACPE's NCAC Adviser Nathaniel Betz and the BRHS Student Council.



Bethel celebrates victory in the Future Forward challenge with a hashtag banner.

"It's exciting for a high school in Alaska to come in first, but it's even better that four of Alaska's High Schools are in the top 20 out of a possible 389 nationwide" said Betz. "What's most exciting is that student leaders in Bethel had the vision and capability to use this as an opportunity to promote the accessibility of postsecondary education to all their peers."

Close behind BRHS, North Pole high school tied with Validus Preparatory Academy, the Bronx, NY, for second place. Lathrop High School in Fairbanks takes 11th place, and Skyview High School in Soldotna landed in 15th.

All NCAC advisors were able to track their school's progress and activities via an online leaderboard, while an Advising Corps-only space on www.yammer.com was established to foster communication among the entire Advising Corps network for the duration of the challenge.

Congratulations to Bethel Regional High School, the official 2013 Future Forward Challenge winners! Bethel Regional High School has already had a 45-minute Skype chat with rapper Kendrick Lamar and now eagerly awaits the announcement of which celebrity will visit to be their "Principal for a Day" later in May. ●

ACROSS ALASKA

Future Forward in the News

KYUU in Anchorage
<http://bit.ly/10buUWO>

KYUK in Bethel
<http://bit.ly/10qltzV>

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MAIN PAGE**"CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?"****COMING SOON: ACPE CALL CENTER UPGRADE**

AUTOMATION TO IMPROVE CALL CENTER CUSTOMER SERVICE DELIVERY

ACPE's Customer Service section is in the midst of a virtual renovation to its existing call center platforms. This much-anticipated upgrade will improve business and workplace productivity, provide significant cost optimizations, and lead to improved customer satisfaction through a more comprehensive contact center management.

Currently, the agency's three call center components – Interactive Voice Response (IVR), Automatic Call Distribution (ACD), and Auto-Dialer systems – are each supported through separate vendor maintenance and support contracts. But last year, ACPE identified a unique opportunity when the Alaska Department of Administration's Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) announced a statewide Internet Protocol Telephony (IPT) telephone project – a large-scale project ACPE can leverage for an upgrade to our call center systems. The statewide IPT project will not only provide technological improvements to the existing Cisco ACD system, but also offer an all-in-one call center telephone communications platform of Cisco-sponsored solutions. All support will be provided by World Wide Technologies (WWT) through their contract with ETS. With the project now well underway, it is expected that the upgrade project will be completed by this Fall. ●

*Call center staff are available M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to assist customers.
Automated account information services are available 24/7.*

COLLEGE GOAL ALASKA SPREADS ACROSS THE STATE

MORE THAN 33 EVENTS ENGAGE STUDENTS FOR FAFSA FILING

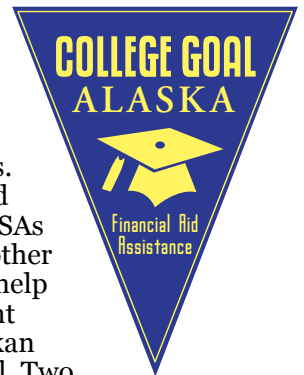
From January through March 2013, the 9th annual College Goal Alaska (formerly College Goal Sunday) offered more than 33 events across the state from Barrow to Unalaska and Ketchikan.

Hundreds of Alaskans received assistance in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from financial aid professionals representing Alaska's postsecondary institutions. Students living in a community without a CGA event were assisted online via live video presentations. In addition to filing their FAFSAs to complete the first and most critical step for federal, state, and other financial aid, three lucky CGA attendees also won prizes that will help them in their educational endeavors. A \$1,500 scholarship account donated by the UA College Savings Plan will help one young Alaskan high school senior as he pursues his plans to enter UAA in the Fall. Two additional students each won 20,000 Alaska Airline miles, donated by GCI. South High School graduate Justin Moore is one of the winners. Justin and his mom attended the CGA event at Dimond High School in Anchorage. He said he was "happy to just receive help with completing his FAFSA." He plans to use his miles for the ticket to attend school out of state this fall and added "winning the air miles was better than winning cash!" ●

Want to learn more about College Goal Alaska? Visit: collegegoalAK.org



South High School graduate Justin Moore is one of two winners of the 20,000 Alaska Airline miles donated by GCI. Another lucky CGA attendee won a \$1,500 scholarship account donated by the UA College Savings Plan.



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NEW COMMISSIONERS

ACPE ADDS NEW FACES



Photo provided by Senator Mike Dunleavy

Sen. Mike DUNLEAVY*President of the Senate Appointment*

Mike Dunleavy was appointed to the Commission by Senate President Charlie Huggins in February 2013. He was elected to the State Senate in 2013 to represent the Wasilla district. He currently serves as the Chair of the Senate Finance subcommittees for Education & Early Development, Environmental Conservation, Fish & Game and Labor & Commerce. He serves as Vice Chair for Education Committee, Co-Chair of the Senate Special Committee on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Throughput, and is a member of Legislative Budget & Audit, Finance and World Trade Committees. Prior to his political involvement, Senator Dunleavy began a teaching career in 1984 in the Bering Strait School District, later moving to the Northwest Artic Borough School District and working his way to superintendent. He later served as president of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board for two years. He earned his BA in History at what was then College Misericordia (now Misericordia University), and his master's in Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Term is indefinite.



Photo provided by Jo Heckman

UA Regent Jo HECKMAN*Board of Regents Appointment*

Jyotsna "Jo" Heckman was appointed to the Commission by the Chair of the Board of Regents in January 2013. She was appointed to the Board of Regents in 2011 by Governor Parnell and serves as treasurer of the board. Ms. Heckman retired as the President & CEO of Denali State Bank in December 2011 after twenty-six years of service with the bank. She currently serves as a director on the bank's board. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she is active in various community and civic organizations including the United Way, Foraker Group, Alaska Community Foundation, Rotary and the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Heckman earned a bachelor's and master's degrees in Business from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has also attended graduate school for financial studies at Georgetown University and Southern Methodist University.

Term Expires February 2015.



Photo provided by Representative Tammie Wilson

Rep. Tammie WILSON*Speaker of the House Appointment*

Tammie Wilson was appointed to the Commission by the House Speaker Mike Chenault in February 2013. She was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives in 2009 to represent the North Pole area, was elected to the seat in 2010 and re-elected in 2012. She currently serves as a member on the House Finance Committee and chairs the House Finance Subcommittees on Education & Early Development and Labor and Workforce Development. Representative Wilson received a BS in Education from Illinois State University.

Term is indefinite.



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UPDATE

COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING • FINANCIAL AID • CONSUMER PROTECTION
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Diane Barrans,
*Executive Director/
Executive Officer*
ACPE/ASLC



EDITOR

Christina Campbell
Marketing Specialist

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Gretchen Weiss
Publication Specialist

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

Rochelle Rogers
Executive Assistant

Brian Rae
Asst. Director for Research

Shelly Morgan
K-12 Specialist

Joann Rieselbach
Customer Service Officer

Greg Monrad
ACAC Program Manager

Misty Klodt
ACAC Completion Coordinator

IMPORTANT DATES:

Commission Meetings

Thursday, July 25, 2013 - Anchorage
Thursday, October 24, 2013 - Anchorage
Thursday, January 9, 2014 - Anchorage

THE ALASKA COMMISSION ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, FUNDED BY THE ALASKA STUDENT LOAN CORPORATION, PROMOTES ACCESS TO AND SUCCESS IN EDUCATION AND CAREER TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL.

THE COMMISSION PROVIDES:

- programs creating early awareness of the importance of preparing for higher education success
- education planning tools and resources
- advocacy and support for postsecondary participation in Alaska
- financial aid for college and career training
- education consumer protection through institutional authorization and complaint investigation

ACPE.alaska.gov

PO Box 110505 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0505 | Executive Offices: (907) 465-6740 | Customer Call Center: (800) 441-2962

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